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Subject: Green Buildings Program - Green Schools Initiative

RENEWABLE ENERGY TRUST



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Green Schools Initiative

Green schools, also called high-performance green schools, are healthy and productive learning environments. They are also cost-effective facilities that conserve energy and use renewable resources.



The recently-dedicated Dedham Middle School exemplifies excellence in high performance design. Daylighting, highly efficient light fixtures, a 30 kW solar system mounted on the roof, and other green features amount to a predicted \$45,140 per year in avoided energy costs.

The Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC) and the the Massachusetts School Building Authority have teamed up for this program to provide school districts in Massachusetts with the information and resources necessary to help them design and build high-performance green schools.

The goal of the Green Schools Initiative is to encourage school districts to construct or renovate school buildings that will cost less to operate and will provide healthier learning environments for students. The program will also help influence how future schools will be designed and built in Massachusetts.

Data from the Green Schools Initiative pilot projects show projected energy savings of 30% above state code requirements on average, with some projects projecting more than 40% energy savings. These energy savings translate to expected annual cost savings of \$70,000 per year on average.

Recent studies completed for MTC on the costs and benefits of green schools show that green schools are very cost effective. Incremental costs of green schools in Massachusetts range from 1.5% to 2.5% and can provide benefits of up to 8 times the incremental cost over a 20-year lifecycle period. One study, by HMFH Architects, Inc., and the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation, looked specifically at the incremental costs and hard benefits of eight Green Schools Initiative pilot projects in Massachusetts.

The studies, as well as other relevant publications, are available on the [Green Schools Publications](#) section of the website.

For more information on the Green Schools Initiative, contact Sam Nutter at (508) 870-0312 x277 and nutter@masstech.org.

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